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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,308	05/04/2006	Yoshimasa Sakata	062490	5752
38834 7590 03/18/2008 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER MATZEK, MATTHEW D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/18/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/578,308

Applicant(s)

SAKATA ET AL.

Examiner

MATTHEW D. MATZEK

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/IS/C)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/26/06 5/4/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (US 2006/0154041 A1).

Hashimoto et al. disclose a plastic substrate and liquid crystal display (LCD) having the same. The plastic substrate comprises fibers and a resin matrix. The fibers are embedded in a resin matrix (abstract). In Figure 6, polarizing plates 64 and 65 are laminated to the plastic substrate comprising fibers [0076-79]. The fibers of the claimed resin sheet may be woven [0022] and are preferably glass fibers [0040]. Figure 9 illustrates that the fibers of the resin sheet are either parallel or perpendicular with the absorption axes (87 and 88). Therefore, the fibers that are parallel to the absorption axes are oriented at an angle of less than 5 degrees (in this case zero) relative to the absorption of the polarizing axes. Claim 4 is anticipated as a gas barrier layer may be included in the LCD [0037].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (WO 03/081322 A2) in view of Sadao (JP 11-002812). Examiner has relied upon the translation of this JP reference provided by Applicant for the basis of this rejection.

- a. Ito discloses a polarizing plate which includes a polymer film, a polarizer, a polymer substrate and an optically anisotropic layer containing liquid crystal (abstract). The invention of Ito may comprise a second polarizing plate and the plates are placed perpendicular to one another (page 11). Placing a polarizing plate on either side of the liquid crystal cell forms a liquid crystal display (LCD) (page 6). Ito fails to teach or suggest the use of a woven glass fabric in the polymer substrate layer or the use of barrier and hard-coating layers.
- b. Sadao discloses a LCD comprising a layer of glass cloth impregnated with resin (abstract). The glass cloth may be woven [0028]. The LCD may further comprise gas barrier and hard-coating layers [0006-7].
- c. Since Ito and Sadao are from the same field of endeavor (i.e. LCDs), the purpose disclosed by Sadao would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Ito.
- d. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Ito with woven glass fabric and

protective layers of Sadao with the motivation of providing improved protective properties to the LCD and decreasing the weight of the LCD with inclusion of the reinforcing fabric.

e. The disclosures of Ito and Sadao fail to teach or suggest the orientation of the woven glass fabric of the polymeric substrate layer at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have oriented the woven glass fabric in the claimed manner as aligning the fibers along with the absorption axis (zero degrees relative to axis) would avoid the introduction of a third axis into the LCD, which might distort the image.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW D. MATZEK whose telephone number is (571)272-2423. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571.272.1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew D Matzek/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/Terrel Morris/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 1794